

War injured have benefits waiting for them

The Washington Times

SGT. SHAFT

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Dear Sgt. Shaft:

My comrade told me that he received an e-mail from a friend in Iraq inquiring about what is being done for the severely wounded when they arrive back stateside.

His buddy was injured and he is worried about him and his family.

Thanking you in advance,

Leon S.

Winchester, Va.

Dear Leon:

I am happy to say that last year the undersecretary of Veterans Affairs, retired Adm. Daniel Cooper, announced in this column a new program for service members suffering serious injuries, Traumatic Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (TSGLI). He explained that this insurance program will help families focus on recovery and adjustment back to military or civilian life and ease worries about financial difficulties.

The TSGLI benefit payments, ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000, are made to service members who have suffered certain serious injuries while on active duty. The program became effective Dec. 1, 2005, and provides financial help to military families through extended periods of medical care and healing.

Benefits are also payable retroactively to Oct. 7, 2001, for service members.

He also encouraged those eligible, our heroes and their families, to contact the VA's Web site (www.va.gov) or to call the Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance at 800/419-1473.